

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1.-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) An active naturally occurring ~~human~~ lipoprotein associated phospholipase A2 at least 95% pure relative to other protein contaminants and encoded by a polynucleotide having at least 90% sequence identity with human SEQ ID NO:9, wherein said lipoprotein associated phospholipase A2 is capable of hydrolyzing the sn-2 ester of an oxidatively modified phosphatidylcholine.

26. (Previously Presented) The lipoprotein associated phospholipase A2 according to claim 25, having a molecular weight of from about 45 kDa to about 50 kDa and comprising at least one sequence selected from the following: SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, and 4.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) A naturally occurring ~~human~~ lipoprotein associated phospholipase A2 comprising the amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide having at least 90% sequence identity with nucleotides 929 to 1018 of human SEQ ID NO: 9, which is at least 95% pure relative to other protein contaminants.

29. (Newly Added) An enzyme lipoprotein associated phospholipase A2 comprising the amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid residues 271 to 441 of SEQ ID NO:9, which is at least 95% pure relative to other protein contaminants.